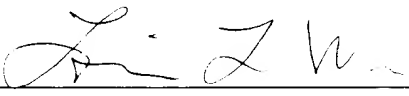


This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that the above reference constitutes prior art to the present application within the meaning of 35 USC § 102.

As applicants have not yet received a first Action on the merits, no fee is required for filing this Information Disclosure Statement. If, however, the PTO finds that for some reason a fee is found to be necessary, our Deposit Account No. 18-0580 may be charged therefor. **A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.**

Respectfully submitted,

12/20/2001
Date

By: 
Louis L. Wu
Registration No. 44,413

REED & ASSOCIATES
800 Menlo Avenue, Suite 210
Menlo Park, California 94025
(650) 330-0900 Telephone
(650) 330-0980 Facsimile

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|---|--|--|---------------------------|
| SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED) | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 2100-0015 | SERIAL NO.: 09:937,406 |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | APPLICANT: Gert BLANKENSTEIN et al. | |
| | | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: March 23, 2000 | GROUP: Unassigned |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIALS | CITE NO. | DOCUMENT NUMBER | PUBLICATION DATE | COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | BE | WO 98/10267 | 3/12/98 | PCT | | | | |
| | BF | WO 99/36766 | 7/22/99 | PCT | | | | |
| | BG | WO 00/56444 | 9/28/00 | PCT | | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS — NONPATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIALS | CITE NO. | INCLUDE NAME OF AUTHOR, TITLE OF ARTICLE (IF APPROPRIATE), TITLE OF PUBLICATION, DATE, PAGE(S), VOLUME-ISSUE NUMBER(S), PUBLISHER, AND PLACE OF PUBLICATION |
|----------------------|-------------|--|
| | BH | Blankenstein et al. (1996), "Flow Switch for Analyte Injection and Cell/Particle Sorting," <i>Analytical Methods and Instrumentation, Special Issue μTAS '96</i> , pp. 82-84. |

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| EXAMINER SIGNATURE: | DATE CONSIDERED: |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |